



## *Executive Officer*

Captain John D. Cousins was born in Wilmington, Del., and graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 1983 with a Bachelor of Science in geological science and a commission through the NROTC Program. His first assignment was aboard USS Fife (DD 991), where he earned his surface warfare qualification and served as antisubmarine warfare officer, fire control officer and first lieutenant. In 1987, he reported to USS Schofield (FFG 3) as the navigator, tactical action officer and deployed to the Western Pacific and Indian oceans as the ship's operations officer.

Captain Cousins attended the Naval Postgraduate School from 1989 to 1991, where he received a Master of Science in Meteorology and Oceanography (METOC). In 1991, he reported to USS Essex (LHD 2) as the ship's oceanographer and served as the officer in charge of the precommissioning detachment and later as the ship's meteorology and oceanography officer. From October 1993 to May 1995, he was staff liaison at the Naval Pacific METOC Facility, San Diego and served additional duties to Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific Fleet and Commander, Naval Surface Forces U.S. Pacific Fleet.

In July 1995, Captain Cousins reported to Commander, Cruiser Destroyer Group Three as staff oceanographer for the USS Carl Vinson Battle Group. He was flag tactical action officer during the *Arabian Gulf Operations Desert Strike*, *Vigilant Sentinel* and *Southern Watch*. He was the executive officer, Naval Pacific METOC Center, San Diego from May 1997 to April 2000 and oversaw the command's transition to a full spectrum Center responsible for operations in the Eastern Pacific and Western United States.

As the Seventh Fleet METOC officer from May 2000 to June 2002, he served as the deputy operations officer and senior watch officer and was responsible for all Fleet meteorological, oceanographic and charting issues for the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans.

In August 2002, Captain Cousins assumed duties as commanding officer, Naval Atlantic METOC Facility, Jacksonville, Fla. As Navy Region Southeast METOC officer, he set hurricane conditions of readiness for Naval activities in the southeastern United States. In August 2004, he reported to Commander, Naval METOC Command as director of oceanographic operations. Major efforts included the expansion of oceanographic support to Naval special warfare units participating in the Global War on Terror, as well as the consolidation of aviation and hazardous weather forecasting at hubs located in Europe, Asia and the United States. Captain Cousins assumed duties as executive officer of the Naval Oceanographic Office in August 2005.

Captain Cousins' personal awards include the Navy Meritorious Service Medal (three awards), Navy Commendation Medal (three awards) and Navy Achievement Award (four awards).



**John Cousins**  
**Captain, U.S. Navy**